

196 THE CHILD

Monthly News Summary

Volume 4, Number 6

December 1939



CHILDREN'S BUREAU
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE CHILD

MONTHLY NEWS SUMMARY

Volume 4, Number 6

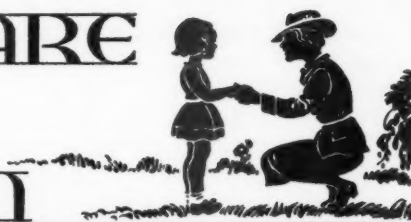
December 1939

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SOCIAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN



Some Brighter Aspects of the Child-Welfare Picture

By FRANCES PERKINS
Secretary of Labor

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR children more than ever occupy the center of attention. As members of communities in which children live, as citizens of a democracy which seeks to provide for children the security and opportunity which they need, as officials of public and private agencies administering services for mothers and children, it is fitting that we pause at this season to inquire what benefits our joint endeavors have brought to the children of the Nation.

As we take stock of what the past year has meant to the younger generation of our own country, we think with a tightening of the heart of the sufferings of parents and children in other lands for whom the words, "peace on earth, good will toward men," have lost their meaning and for whom this Christmas season represents only separation or deprivation.

Childhood seems doubly precious during this troubled period. It is imperative that we redouble our efforts to make life for children more secure; that we strengthen the foundations already laid; that we endeavor to build a superstructure which will increase their chances for growth and development in a world which will place heavy burdens upon them.

One thing that comes to mind as we consider this situation is the recommendation made by the Planning Committee of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy to the

effect that "events in Europe must not be allowed to divert the attention of the American people from the task of strengthening our democracy from within."

"In such a time as the present," the committee said, "the needs of childhood require particular attention. Despite international problems, the responsibility for meeting the continuing needs of the children must be accepted. It cannot be postponed."

Acting on this recommendation, let us consider what has been done during the past year to help meet "the continuing needs of the children." And while admitting that there are still grave and urgent needs to be met, let us seek encouragement for the task ahead by reviewing the progress that has been made, by pausing for a moment to dwell on the bright spots for which we have cause to be thankful.

Fortunately there are bright spots in a picture which the world situation otherwise renders dark and full of foreboding.

At this season of the year attention centers on the homes of the Nation and on the children in these homes.

First of all we draw encouragement from the fact that more mothers survive today to make homes for their children. The maternal mortality rate for the United States as a whole in 1937 (the latest year for which final census figures are available) was 49 per 10,000 live births.

If the 1936 rate of 57 had remained unchanged there would have been 1,746 more maternal deaths in 1937 than there were.

The Conference on Better Care for Mothers and Babies, meeting in Washington in January 1938 under the auspices of the Children's Bureau, focused national attention anew on the serious problem of the Nation's still high maternal mortality rate and the high death rate of infants in the earliest period of life. Provisional reports for 1938 issued by the United States Public Health Service and based on figures from 42 States indicate that the maternal mortality rate dropped to 44. And provisional figures just released, based on reports from 40 States for the first 6 months of 1939, indicate a new low rate of 40 per 10,000 live births. If this is confirmed by the final figures, it will be a decline of 18 percent since 1937.

A significant saving of infant life is also reported. The 1937 rate for the United States was 54 per 1,000 live births. The provisional rate for 1938 is 51. In publishing the provisional rate of 50 for 40 States for the first 6 months of 1939 the United States Public Health Service says: "The infant mortality rate registered a drop of 2 percent and will be less than 50 per 1,000 live births for the first time in the history of the registration area if the present favorable conditions continue until the end of the year."

The effects of work in the field of maternal and child health are cumulative, and many groups, agencies, and influences have helped to bring about these achievements. But it is significant that this encouraging decline in the death rates of mothers and infants has accompanied the Nation-wide effort now being carried on as the result of programs for maternal and child-health services set up in the States and Territories under title V of the Social Security Act.

In 1938 through these programs 119,000 expectant mothers received medical examination and advice at clinics, and 236,000 received public-health-nursing care. Medical examinations were given to 165,000 infants, and their mothers were advised on infant care. Nursing services were given to 431,000 infants. There

was a substantial increase over the previous year in all types of service given, and especially in the number of areas providing home-delivery-nursing service. Although figures for 1939 are not yet available it is known that maternal and child-health services reached more mothers and children than ever before.

In the light of this record it is encouraging to remember that Congress last August authorized increased appropriation for maternal and child-health services under the Social Security Act, and that the increased grants to States will begin to provide, on a demonstration basis, medical, nursing, and hospital care for some of the 200,000 mothers who, each year, bring babies into the world without a physician in attendance, and some of the even larger number who receive medical, nursing, and hospital care that is wholly inadequate.

It is also a source of deep gratification that the benefits of the maternal and child-welfare provisions of the Social Security Act are now to be extended to Puerto Rico, and that other amendments to the act increase the grants for care of crippled children and for aid to dependent children.

Since we have chosen to emphasize at this time the brighter aspects of the child-welfare picture, special mention must be made of progress in the field of child-labor administration. The first full year of operation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which became effective in October of that year, has witnessed the establishment of successful cooperative relationships between State and local agencies and officials administering State labor laws and the staff of the Industrial Division of the Children's Bureau, through which the child-labor provisions of the act are administered. The operation of the act has demonstrated that child labor is not entirely a thing of the past and that it affords real protection to children under 16 who might otherwise be drawn in increasing numbers into industry with every upturn in the business barometer, as has been the case in the past. And since this act applies only to establishments manufacturing goods for shipment in interstate commerce, thus leaving large numbers of children outside the

sphere of its operation, there is special cause for rejoicing in the fact that recent Supreme Court decisions have cleared the way for ratification of the child-labor amendment by the 8 additional States whose action is necessary before it can become a part of the Constitution.

Despite these milestones on the path of progress, we nevertheless remain conscious of the many inequalities which surround the lives of large numbers of children in these United States today. We are conscious of the lack of economic security in the family, which is the very cornerstone of the whole child-welfare structure. We are painfully aware of the inequality of resources made available by different communities to assist the American home in its creative task of bringing up future citizens. We have had brought home to us repeatedly the lack of opportunity for education which handicaps many of our young people. We know how difficult it is for older boys and girls to find jobs and so begin to take their place as citizens and to establish homes.

For guidance in solving some of these problems we look to the report of the White House

Conference on Children in a Democracy, which was called into session by the President of the United States last April and which has been hard at work during the intervening months surveying the conditions which surround the lives of children in our country. The Report Committee of the Conference has held a number of meetings to consider preliminary statements prepared by the staff with the aid of consultants drawn from the membership of the conference. These statements cover such subjects as education, health, nutrition, recreation, social services, economic assistance, housing, child labor, vocational opportunity, minority groups, and others.

Since the President, acting on a recommendation made to him by the Planning Committee, has called the conference into session January 18-20, 1940, instead of in the spring as was originally proposed, the major recommendations of the conference will soon be available. As was pointed out by President Roosevelt, in his address to the opening session, "It then will be for all of us to determine the extent to which they will be translated into action."

Child-Welfare-Service Plans Approved for 51 Jurisdictions

On December 15, 1939, plans had been approved by the Chief of the Children's Bureau for child-welfare services under the Social Security Act for all 48 States and for Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. The first plan for child-welfare services submitted by Wyoming was approved on December 4.

CHILD-WELFARE NOTES

Air Youth of America

The organization of Air Youth of America with headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, has just been announced. The organizing committee consists of Winthrop Rockefeller, chairman, Sanford Bates, Col. Henry Breckinridge, Leon Fraser, Lester D. Gardner, and Luther Gulick. The executive director is Ernest Gamache.

The purpose of Air Youth of America, as described in its initial leaflet, *First Flight*, is "to strengthen the air arm of all kinds of youth-serving organizations. If a boys' club or girls' club, a playground group, a church league, a scouting unit—if any legitimate organization of young people is now doing work or wants to start work in junior aeronautics, Air Youth of America hopes to provide helpful service and hearty cooperation."

The program will center around the building and flying of model planes and the use of these activities to stimulate interest in the whole subject of developing aviation as a means of peaceful commerce and communication among the nations of the world.

It is planned to publish a monthly periodical, *Air Youth Bulletin*, an instructor's manual, and a contest handbook.

Bibliography of Nursery School Education

The National Association for Nursery Education has issued a *Bibliography of Nursery School Education* for the years 1935-39 (compiled by Dorothy E. Bradbury and Esther Leech Skeels; 71 East Ferry Ave., Detroit, 1939, 64 pp., 40 cents). Although this period is only one-fourth as long as that covered by the predecessor to this volume, it has produced half as many publications in this field as the longer period.

Education for minority groups

Studies pertaining to two minority groups in the country, Negroes and Indians, have recently been published by the Federal Advisory Committee on Education:

Special Problems of Negro Education, by Doxey A. Wilkerson (Staff Study No. 12, Advisory Committee on Education, Washington, 1939; 171 pp.; 25 cents), discusses the status of Negro education in the 18 States that require complete segregation of Negro school children and suggests measures for making the schools more nearly adequate.

Educational Service for Indians, by Lloyd E. Blauch (Staff Study No. 18, Advisory Committee on Education, Washington, 1939; 137 pp.; 25 cents), gives a brief history of the relationship between the Federal Government and Indians and the development and present status of schools for Indians. One chapter is devoted to the education of Alaskan Indians.

THE WORLD'S CHILDREN



British Act Regulating Placement of Children for Adoption

The need for supervision of agencies placing children for adoption is recognized in the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939 (2 and 3 Geo. 6, ch. 27), which was recently passed by the British Parliament and comes into operation January 1, 1940. The county council is designated as the "registration authority," and placement of children for adoption is restricted to registered adoption societies and local authorities.

Under the new law no society shall be registered unless it gives reasonable evidence that it is a charitable association. The registration authority may refuse to register an adoption society if it appears that its activities are not controlled by a committee of responsible members or if the number of competent persons employed by the society is insufficient to carry on its activities.

The Secretary of State is empowered to make regulations governing the conduct of registered adoption societies in their dealings with persons wishing to have children adopted. Protection is afforded to parents or guardians by requiring that they be given a memorandum explaining the effect of adoption and their rights and duties in connection with an application for an adoption order. Furthermore, the case of every child proposed for adoption is to be considered by a case committee of the society, composed of not less than three persons, which is to

make careful inquiries as to the child and the person adopting him so as to insure, as far as possible, the suitability of both.

A residence period of 3 months in the foster home is stipulated before application for an adoption order can be made by a foster parent residing in Great Britain, and at any time during this 3-month period either the society or the foster family may terminate the plan for adoption. The law further provides for removal of the child from the adoptive home unless he is adopted within the next 3 months.

One of the most important aspects of this new law is the protection it makes possible for children who, although not legally adopted, are called "adopted" by the persons with whom they are living. Children under 9 years of age who have not been placed by an agency and yet are living under a "de facto adoption" arrangement are subject to supervision by child-protection visitors from the "welfare authority." Notification must be sent to this authority of the arrangements under which the child is living, and if the conditions are found to be detrimental to the child he may be removed to a "place of safety."

The new act is described by the National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare in an editorial in *Mother and Child* (September 1939) as "a landmark in child-welfare history."

M. R. C.

France Adopts Measures To Encourage Large Families

Various measures designed to encourage an increase in the birth rate and to aid families are provided for in a French decree of July 29, 1939.

Birth premiums

On the birth of the first viable and legitimate child in a family, the mother is to receive a birth premium, provided the birth takes place within 2 years after marriage and the child is of French nationality. The premium is to be an amount equal to twice the father's monthly wage or salary, but not less than 2,000 francs.

Payment of the premium is to be made to the mother or, in case the mother is dead or incapacitated, to the father or other person caring for the child. If circumstances indicate that the premium may not be used for the good of the child, payment is to be made to a child-welfare agency or to a responsible individual. The cost of the birth premiums is met by the family-allowance funds for members of the funds; by the Government, national or local, for its employees; and by the National Government for persons not engaged in any occupation.

Family allowances

The decree also provides for family allowances for all heads of families. The system has been expanded gradually to new groups of workers and now covers all persons employed in industry, commerce, the liberal professions, Government employees, agricultural workers, and domestic servants, also persons working independently and employers of labor. Family allowances are paid in all cases from the family-allowance funds.

With the exception of the first child in a family, an allowance is to be paid to the head of the family for each child from birth to the end of the compulsory-school-attendance period, which is usually at the age of 14 years. If a child continues to attend school, however, or is placed in apprenticeship, or is disabled by a chronic illness, the allowance is continued to the age of 17 years.

The minimum allowance for a family with two children is equal to 10 percent of the average monthly wage of an adult man in the locality; for each succeeding child in the family an allowance of twice that amount is to be paid.

Payment of the allowance may be suspended for a maximum period of 1 month, if investigation reveals that the children are not being brought up under satisfactory conditions of hygiene.

Family aid

Persons who have permanent charge of one or more children of French nationality and who lack the necessary resources are entitled to family aid. This aid is to be given on application in the form of monthly payments varying from 25 to 50 francs. It is to be given for the first child in a family, and also in place of the family allowance payable for each child after the first. Except in the cases of widows or deserted or divorced women, this aid is not to be given to persons receiving family allowances or other forms of aid.

Family loans

In order to promote the back-to-land movement, loans varying from 5,000 to 20,000 francs, to be used exclusively for the purpose of buying agricultural implements or household articles, are to be made to young French citizens intending to be married and to devote themselves to farming or to some manual trade in a rural district. The loan is to be amortized in 20 semiannual installments with interest at 4½ percent.

The principal of the debt is reduced by one-half of 1 percent at the birth of the first child. The rate of the reduction increases sharply with the birth of each successive child until, at the birth of the fifth child, the balance of the debt is remitted.

The funds necessary for the loans are provided by the State, which also bears the cost of the remissions due to the birth of children.

Other provisions

The decree orders the Departments (territorial divisions of France) to organize measures against infant mortality and authorizes the Minister of Public Instruction to introduce medical super-

vision in specified boys' and girls' schools.

The decree also contains regulations in regard to maternity homes, abortions, adoptions, and the care of children who are born out of wedlock.¹

Bulletin Législatif, Dalloz, No. 14, 1939, pp. 762-786.

Denmark Provides for Bureaus of Maternal Aid

Advice and aid to expectant mothers and mothers recently confined are to be given under a law of 1939 in Denmark which provides for the establishment in various parts of the country of special bureaus of maternal aid.

Women applying to the bureau will be given periodic physical examinations before and after childbirth; also advice and aid in legal and economic matters. Expectant mothers without means of support will be placed in maternity homes and later in an institution for mothers with young children. Efforts will be made to obtain employment for the mother in the institution or elsewhere.

The bureaus may also, within the limits of their resources, improve the situation of the mothers by providing obstetric care, the services of a visiting housekeeper, opportunity to rest after childbirth, advance payments of maternity benefits granted by the State, and through other measures.

In each place selected by the Minister of Social Welfare for the establishment of a bureau of maternal aid, the Prefect of the Province appoints an administrative council to establish the bureau and direct its work. These councils consist of public officials and representatives of child-welfare agencies and must include several women. A woman who is a trained social worker is to be in charge of each bureau, and a physician, a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, must be on the staff.

The funds necessary for the administration of the law will be provided jointly by the national treasury and by the local administrative authorities.

A national body, the General Council on Aid to Mothers, will assist the Minister of Social Welfare in the administration of the law.¹

Socialt Tidsskrift, Copenhagen, No. 3, 1939, p. B16.

Italy Provides for Teaching Child Care in Schools

Teaching of child care is introduced by an Italian law of July 13, 1939, in high schools, normal schools, and various vocational schools, including conservatories of music and art schools. The instruction is to be given 1 hour a week, and each course is to consist of not less than 30 lessons, supplemented by visits to child-welfare institutions.

The teachers of child care will be pediatricians attached to clinics, hospitals, or universities, members of staffs of child-welfare insti-

tutions, physicians employed at the public child-health centers, and other physicians specializing in pediatrics.

The teachers are to be paid from an appropriation for the Ministry of Education. Their salaries are to be specified in a later decree.¹

Bollettino Ufficiale, Ministero dell'Educazione Nazionale, Rome, Sept. 19, 1939.

¹ Prepared by Anna Kalet Smith, associate in foreign research, U. S. Children's Bureau.

Child Welfare in China in Time of War¹

The number of Chinese children who have lost their parents and homes must certainly be over 2 millions, as the total number of refugees is over 50 millions. By "refugees" is meant those whom the war has forced to leave their homes and proceed to places sometimes thousands of kilometers from where they were settled before the invasion. This migration—which is without precedent in history—of tens of millions of civilians is one of the outstanding features of the war imposed on China and gives some idea of the privation and suffering it inflicts and the problems it raises.

Realizing the immensity of their task, public authorities and private organizations have redoubled their efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the refugees—of the children in particular—difficult though it is to help all those in need of assistance. Every effort is being made to coordinate and rationalize relief work. Thanks to the combined action of the Government, the Provincial authorities, and private organizations, large numbers of children have been evacuated from the areas in which hostilities are proceeding. Although the evacuation has not yet been completed, it is felt now that the essential problem is to make arrangements for the more or less permanent settlement and education of the children who have been rescued.

PRIVATE RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

The chief private relief organizations are the China National Child Welfare Association, founded long before the outbreak of the present hostilities, the China Wartime Children's Relief Association, and the China Wartime Children's Welfare Association. In addition to these three principal organizations, there are many religious or philanthropic associations—due to Chinese, foreign, or joint Chinese and foreign initiative—such as the International Relief Committee, the Chinese Red Cross, the International

Red Cross, the National Christian Council, and many others, which have assisted in relief work since the outbreak of hostilities or shortly after. . . . Last year the various private organizations were responsible for receiving, maintaining, and educating upwards of 30,000 refugee children. . . .

The private organizations, notwithstanding the important and far-reaching nature of their activities and the large staff at their disposal, experienced both material and technical difficulties. Good will was forthcoming on every side and useful activities were initiated, but better results would have been achieved had their activities been more rationally coordinated. The need was realized for some higher authority to ensure liaison between the various organizations and to direct them and provide facilities which only a Central Government organ is capable of supplying. It was in response to this need that the Chinese Government instituted the National Relief Committee.

NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

The National Relief Committee was set up on April 27, 1938, under the terms of a recommendation passed at the first session of the People's Council. It is responsible for dealing with all problems concerning relief to refugees of all ages. It is not proposed here to refer to its duties or activities in the matter of adult refugees, as that would go beyond the scope of the matters which interest the Committee on Social Questions. It is clear, however, that the fate of refugee children who are still with their parents is closely bound up with the fate of the latter. The National Relief Committee, if it can find a solution for the problem of refugees in general, will *ipso facto* settle that of refugee children who have not been separated from their parents. But, over and above this task, it has the duty of caring for children who are refugees or orphans or who are separated from their parents.

¹ Note communicated by the Delegate of the Chinese Government to the Advisory Committee on Social Questions. League of Nations, Information Series No. 16, Geneva, September 12, 1939.

The National Relief Committee has prepared a comprehensive plan of child-welfare work. It consulted the big private organizations and the Child Education Committee, and held a number of meetings with their representatives. At Hankow, one of the decisions taken in the course of these discussions was the geographical division of the activities of the private organizations. . . . The National Relief Committee, in addition to its work of coordination, makes itself responsible in particular for children evacuated to Provinces remote from the scene of hostilities.

The direct action of the National Relief Committee extends to the whole country. In areas where there are children to be evacuated, it opens central relief offices and sends agents. The central offices, assisted by local private and public organizations, receive the children and send them on to safer places. Owing to the great distances separating the areas in which children are received and those to which they are being sent, it is difficult to transport large numbers direct without doing the journey in stages. Centers have therefore been established at provisional halts in the intervening provinces, where the little refugees can stay for a time and rest before continuing their journey to their final destination.

But it is not enough to collect the children and send them on to distant provinces. Arrangements must also be made to look after them and educate them. With this object children's centers and homes have been established. The National Relief Committee has taken steps to open new ones and to improve those already in existence.

Acting on a suggestion of the Committee, the Central Government opened in the outskirts of Chungking, the temporary capital, an important center known as the Institution for the Care and Education of Refugee Children. The Government also instructed the Provincial authorities and private organizations to found similar centers in their various areas, according to the funds at their disposal.

Further, instructions applicable to all children's centers were drawn up by the National Relief Committee and published in regulations

approved by the Council of Ministers on October 20, 1938. They consist of five parts:

(1) *Definition of children to be received in homes and length of their stay.*—These are children under 12 years of age without parents who can support them. They are kept in the homes until they can earn their living or can be admitted free to some school.

(2) *Objects in view in placing children in homes:*

(a) To see that the children grow up physically fit.

(b) To develop their good instincts and train their characters.

(c) To give them good civic training and make them good citizens.

(d) To give them a general education.

(e) To teach them a trade.

(3) *Methods and program of education.*—Special stress is laid on the importance of a collective, healthy, and industrious life. Children are divided into three categories, according to age and intellectual development.

The program for the oldest category of children provides for vocational training. According to the facilities at their disposal, the homes are required to teach gardening, care of animals, office work, or manual work—in short, some trade which will enable the children to earn their living.

(4) *Provisions for establishing and increasing the number of children's homes.*

(5) *Rules concerning supervision and the future development of child-welfare organizations.*

In order to make sure that these regulations are being enforced and to coordinate private activities, the National Relief Committee sends inspectors, who also give technical advice to the different local organizations. The Council of Ministers has adopted regulations regarding grants to private organizations.

The National Relief Committee has had under consideration a number of questions, such as the training of teachers for refugee children, the founding of special institutions for sick and backward children, and so on.

According to the most recent information, there are at present 100,000 refugee children

being looked after by 71 Government, Provincial, local, and private organizations. Millions of Chinese dollars, obtained from public or private sources, have already been spent on this work.

Voluntary contributions from Chinese and foreign private persons have greatly assisted in the carrying out of this task. The cost of living being very low in China, about 60 Swiss francs² is sufficient to maintain and educate a child for 1 year. For orphans, steps are taken to find persons who would be responsible for the cost of one child or more for a definite period. Photographs of the orphans are sent to such persons to arouse a feeling of sympathy between them and the children they are supporting; and, if they wish, the home where the child has been placed arranges for the exchange of letters.

At the first session of the Committee on Social Questions the Delegate of the Chinese Government had occasion to speak of the propaganda organized by the Government in favor of child welfare and of the National Children's Day celebrated on April fourth every year. The propaganda has now been intensified, as funds are necessary to carry out successfully the task which has been undertaken.

This year, for instance, the National Children's Day was more enthusiastically cele-

brated than ever. At Chungking several thousand children attended a big ceremony with a very interesting program. Children's performances with child actors were heartily applauded. The little refugees were invited.

Children's gatherings were held on the same date in the other towns and aroused the greatest enthusiasm. All the schools organized festivities; children's songs and sketches were broadcast; the young refugees exhibited examples of their manual work; they were invited to free performances in theaters and cinemas. The Chinese living abroad also organized such demonstrations and took care to see that the celebrations were of a suitable character. In Malaya, for example, many gatherings were organized, and children's competitions were an important feature of the program.

This brief account of child-welfare activities in time of war is sufficient to show that, notwithstanding what may often seem insurmountable difficulties, China is not relaxing her efforts, but is doing everything to safeguard the future of her people, which depends on the well-being of her children.

It is worth recalling the saying of Confucius: "When children respect their parents and parents love their children, peace and order are maintained." This is the spirit that underlies child-welfare work in China.

² \$13.55 in September 1939.—*Ed.*

Children in a Democracy

The health, well-being, and future security of the children who will be the citizens of tomorrow are receiving the special consideration of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, which meets January 18-20, 1940, in Washington, D. C.

Who are these children? What are their needs, their backgrounds, their opportunities? Where do they live?

The children shown in the photographs that follow live in New Mexico, Washington (D. C.), New Hampshire, Iowa, Massachusetts, Mississippi, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Virginia, and

Connecticut. They live in cities, on farms, and in villages; in the mountains and on the seacoast.

Six photographs are reproduced by courtesy of the Farm Security Administration: Daughters of a Resettled Farmer (cover); Sons of a Resettled Farmer; Child in a Farm Home; On the Road—Restless and Insecure; Children in a City Street; and School Children With Boy Patrol.

Two photographs are reproduced by courtesy of the National Child Labor Committee: Child Laborers in a Shrimp Cannery and, in contrast, Apprentice Learning a Skilled Trade.

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SONS OF A RESETTLED
FARMER (above)



CHILD IN A SAFE
PLAY AREA (left)

CHILD IN A FARM
HOME (right)





ON THE ROAD—RESTLESS AND
INSECURE (top)



IN THE SAFETY OF A
HAPPY HOME (circle)

CHILDREN IN A CITY STREET (below)



SCHOOL
BOY



CHILD LABORERS IN A
SHRIMP CANNERY (top)



CHILDREN LEARNING
THROUGH PLAY
(center)

SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH
BOY PATROL (right)





CHILDREN AT PLAY
(upper right)

INDIAN CHILDREN
(upper left)



APPRENTICE
LEARNING A
SKILLED TRADE
(lower left)



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EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS OF MINORS



Operation of Education Act Suspended by British Parliament

Emergency bills suspending the operation of the Education Act, 1936, in England and Wales and in Scotland were passed by Parliament on October 10, 1939, after a brief debate in the House of Commons. The Education Act provided for raising the school-leaving age from 14 to 15 years with exemptions for "beneficial employment," and was to have come into operation September 1, 1939. In presenting the emergency bill, which members of all parties reluctantly agreed was necessary in view of the evacuation of school children from the cities because of war conditions and in view of the lack of school accommodations, Mr. Kenneth Lindsay, representing the Board of Education, stressed the fact that it suspends the Education Act but does not repeal it. The suspension was admitted to be a backward step, the effect of which the Board of Education is attempting to counteract to some extent by setting up a new body called the National Youth Committee to safeguard the interests, both educational and recreational, of young workers between the ages of 14 and 18 years. Mr. Lindsay stated:

Unless a more romantic and challenging view is given to the young people in this country, and more chances during those years, then we shall have a recurrence of delinquency and all the problems which have been referred to by honorable Members much older than I am. I was in the war and not here, but I know that those things happened. The committee reports of that time are eloquent of what happened. At any rate, we have started in the first month of the war and not after 2 years, and I hope that, as we have to postpone raising the school-leaving age, we can, at any rate, take steps to keep open the evening institutes and the clubs, and perhaps build up a new partnership, which has hitherto not existed, between

the local education authorities and the juvenile organizations in order to look after the education and recreation of our young people.

An amendment was introduced by the Labor Opposition to make it possible to restore the Education Act when feasible as a "clear-cut raising of the school age to 15," without the weakening exemptions for beneficial employment.

This amendment was rejected.

One member (Sir Percy Harris) called on the Board of Education to "make it clear that education is not to be paralyzed at a time like this when it is so vital that the best training should be given to future generations." "If it is bad for the children who are evacuated," he said, "it is three times worse for the children left behind, who to this day are running wild about the streets of our great towns. . . . If we are to give them [the Board] this bill we have a right to demand that the children who are willing to remain at school up to the age of 14 should at least have some education."

Another member (Mr. Creech Jones) said:

I am afraid that under this Bill, again, it will be the workers' children who will be called upon to make sacrifices, and this will be largely because of the pressure of certain of the reactionary authorities, as well as the necessity for the employment of child labor in the present emergency. . . . The tragedy of all this is that the children pass along this way only once, and what they lose now they lose forever. Instead of our regarding education as the natural heritage of all children, we are apt to regard it as something which they can have only if circumstances and finance enable it to be provided.

Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, Official Report, London, vol. 352, no. 179 (Oct. 9, 1939), pp. 47-95; no. 180 (Oct. 10, 1939), pp. 253-267.

Resolutions of International Association of Governmental Labor Officials Affecting Child Labor

The Twenty-Fifth Convention of the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials was held in Tulsa, Okla., in September 1939. Resolutions adopted by the convention deal with child labor, minimum-wage laws, factory inspection, centralized administration of labor laws, the International Labor Organization, the protection of labor's rights in an emergency, labor relations, and extension of social security.

The report of the Child Labor Committee of the association was given by Beatrice McConnell, Director of the Industrial Division of the United States Children's Bureau. The convention adopted the following resolutions on child labor:

WHEREAS the report of the Committee on Child Labor has emphasized the desirability of uniformity in State child-labor standards and the effectiveness of Federal-State cooperation in the protection of young workers:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials reaffirm its support of—

(a) The amendment of State laws (1) to bring the State child-labor standards for manufacturing and mining industries up to those of the Fair Labor Standards Act; (2) to extend these standards to those types of employment not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act; (3) to provide for employment certificates for all minors up to 18 years of age and for adequate supervision of the issuance of such certificates by the State Department of Labor; (4) to regulate effectively the employment of children in street trades and in industrialized agriculture; and (5) to extend State compulsory-school-attendance laws to all children under 16 years of age and to children between 16 and 18 years of age unless they are legally employed.

(b) The active cooperation of State labor departments with the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor in the administration of the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

(c) An effective Nation-wide minimum standard for all child workers, to be attained through the ratification of the pending child-labor amendment by the necessary eight States.

(d) The development of more comprehensive State statistics on industrial injuries and industrial diseases of young workers, with a view to providing sound in-

formation as a basis for the determination of occupations hazardous for minors under both State and Federal legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in view of the present European conflict and regardless of future development, every effort be made to maintain existing child-labor standards and to safeguard the rights of children to education, normal development, and sane living.

WHEREAS the child-labor provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 provide that the Children's Bureau may reimburse the States for their assistance in the enforcement of the child-labor provisions, and

WHEREAS many States are operating on curtailed appropriations, which makes it impossible adequately to enforce this added burden without Federal assistance, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor rush to completion rules and regulations which will enable them to assist the several States financially in the enforcement of the act above mentioned, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairman of this convention appoint three (3) persons to confer with officials of the Children's Bureau and to assist in working out the necessary procedure toward this end.

The report on minimum-wage laws was given by Louise Stitt, Director of the Minimum Wage Division of the United States Women's Bureau. In regard to minimum-wage laws, the convention adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS this association has frequently gone on record as favoring the extension of the benefits of minimum-wage legislation, and

WHEREAS many of the States, which at present have minimum-wage laws, are finding it difficult to bring under the protection of these laws all of the workers eligible to their benefits due to lack of funds properly to enforce additional wage orders, and

WHEREAS due to unhappy world conditions the cost of living of all workers will undoubtedly increase during the next 12 months,

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials and its members will use every effort to secure adequate appropriations for State minimum-wage divisions, and where that is immediately impossible, will endeavor to secure such allocation of existing State labor-department funds as will enable the minimum-wage divisions to expand their work so as properly to meet the present crisis.

READING NOTES

*Child-labor
articles
reprinted*

Under the title, "The Children's Amendment Moves on to Victory," two articles appearing in the *Social Service Review*, vol. 13, no. 3 (September 1939), have been reprinted. The first of two articles, *Federal Regulation of Child Labor, 1906-38*, was written by Grace Abbott for her book, *The Child and the State*, and carries the history of Federal child-labor legislation through the enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. A note is appended giving the substance of the opinions handed down by the United States Supreme Court June 5, 1939, in regard to the ratification of the child-labor amendment. The second article, *The Present Status of Child Labor*, is by Courtenay Dinwiddie, general secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, and comments on the accomplishments of the Fair Labor Standards Act and on the present extent of child labor.

*Division of
Labor Standards
publications*

Recent publications of the Division of Labor Standards of the United States Department of Labor include the following:

Proceedings of the Fifth National Conference on Labor Legislation, Washington, D. C., November 14, 15, 16, 1938. Bulletin No. 25, Washington, 1939. 118 pp. The report of the Resolutions Committee, as adopted, appears on pages 93-95. The resolutions are on the subjects of child labor, apprenticeship, State wage and hour legislation, industrial home work, workmen's compensation, wage collection, conferences of administrative officials, State labor departments, and freight-rate differentials.

Digest of State and Federal Labor Legislation Enacted July 1, 1938, to July 1, 1939. Bulletin No. 32, Washington, 1939. 51 pp. For each of the States in which labor legislation was enacted during the year a summary is given under topical headings.

Progress of State Insurance Funds Under Workmen's Compensation, by John B. Andrews. Bulletin No. 30, Washington, 1939. 42 pp. This report, gleaned from a quarter century of American experience, was prepared in response to demands for information for legislators, employers, and workers on the extent to which State funds may be helpful in reducing costs of workmen's compensation systems.

The Work of an Industrial Hygiene Division in a State Department of Labor. Bulletin No. 31, Washington, 1939. 24 pp. Because of widespread interest in the operation of industrial-hygiene units and because of constant inquiries as to what functions such a unit can perform, the story of the Industrial Hygiene Division of the New York State Department of Labor is presented. New York is reported to have the oldest, largest, and best-organized of the State industrial-hygiene divisions.

Age and the Job. Washington, 1939. 11 pp. This pamphlet discusses in dialogue form the difficulties encountered by older applicants for employment and some possible constructive solutions. The dialogue was written with the aid of a group of workers who used it in presenting the problem for discussion at a union meeting.

Industrial Home-Work Legislation and Its Administration. Bulletin No. 26, Washington, 1939. (Reviewed in this issue.)

National Youth Administration publications Recent publications received from State offices of the National Youth Administration include the following:
From the National Youth Administration of Ohio (Columbus):

The Morale of Youth Workers (Evaluation Studies, Report No. 3, Columbus, January 1938, mimeographed; 21 pp.).

Results of a Six-Month Demonstration in Evaluation (Evaluation Studies, Report No. 4, June 1938, mimeographed; 48 pp. plus forms). A study of a National Youth Administration project in Cleveland.

Occupational Orientation of Youth Workers (Evaluation Studies, Report No. 5, Columbus, July 1938, mimeographed; 78 pp.).

An Evaluation of the NYA Student Aid Program at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio (Evaluation Studies, Report No. 8, July 1939, mimeographed; 46 pp.).

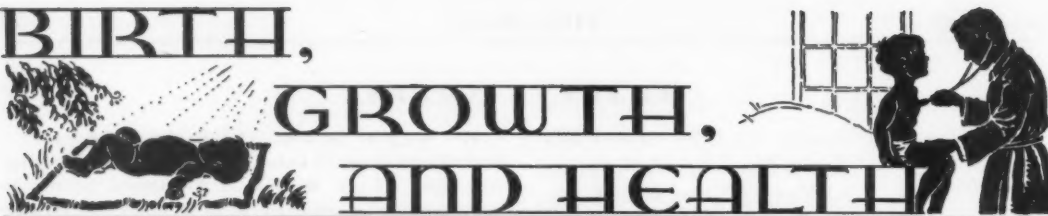
From the National Youth Administration of Michigan:

Gauging Group Work, by Elise Hatt Campbell (Detroit, 1938, processed; 135 pp.). This is an evaluation of boys' work in a settlement program. Copies may be purchased from the Board of Education, Detroit, at 25 cents each.

From the National Youth Administration of Texas:

Cotton Growing in Texas (Austin, 1939, mimeographed; 79 pp.) For boys and girls who are seeking general information regarding fields of employment.

BIRTH, GROWTH, AND HEALTH



PUBLIC-HEALTH NOTES

American Public Health Association elections Officers of the American Public Health Association, elected for 1939-40 at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh in October, are: Edward S. Godfrey, M. D., Albany, president; W. S. Leathers, M. D., Nashville, president-elect; Elizabeth L. Smellie, R. N., Ottawa, Canada, first vice president; Domingo F. Ramos, M. D., Habana, Cuba, second vice president; Wilton L. Halverson, M. D., Pasadena, third vice president; Louis I. Dublin, Ph. D., New York, treasurer; Reginald M. Atwater, M. D., New York, executive secretary; Abel Wolman, Dr. Eng., Baltimore, chairman of executive board.

The next annual meeting of the association will be held in Detroit in October 1940.

Cleveland Child Health Association completes survey of mouth-hygiene programs The fifth and last section of A Survey of Mouth Hygiene Programs for School Children in the United States conducted by the Cleveland Child Health Association, has now been published (1001 Huron Road, Cleveland, 1939; processed; 201 pp.).

The object of the survey was to "learn what the various cities are doing to correct or ameliorate the dental-disease conditions among school children. The record of conditions discovered by the inspections is a byproduct, but not the prime object of the survey."

In the five sections of the survey are presented the efforts to solve the problems of mouth hygiene among school children made by

370 cities, representing approximately 41 percent of the population of the United States. The educational phase and corrective measures are summarized in each section for cities of various size. Section 1, covering 13 cities of more than 500,000 population, was reviewed in *The Child*, December 1937, page 126. Section 2 dealt with 38 cities of 150,000 to 500,000 population; section 3, with 42 cities of 100,000 to 150,000 population; and section 4, with 98 cities of 50,000 to 100,000 population. Section 5 covers 179 cities of 25,000 to 50,000 population.

The Cleveland Child Health Association is now engaged in preparing interpretations and recommendations based on the survey as a whole.

Public-health organization in 94 counties Two articles in a series dealing with public-health organization in 94 selected counties have appeared in recent issues of *Public Health Reports*. Organized Public Nursing and Variation of Field Programs in 94 Selected Counties (vol. 54, no. 20 (May 19, 1939)) supplies "additional evidence in support of what is well known to health administrators, namely, that official organizations in most instances seek to accomplish their objectives by disseminating information and by instituting regulatory measures, while nonofficial agencies operate very largely in the field of care for a restricted number of persons already ill." Dental Programs Sponsored by Health Agencies in 94 Selected Counties (vol. 54, no. 36 (September 8, 1939)) shows that in three-fourths of the

counties surveyed some sort of public dental program is sponsored by one or more official or nonofficial health agencies and that counties without any definite dental program are largely rural. Both articles are by Joseph W. Mountin, Senior Surgeon of the United States Public Health Service, and Evelyn Flook.

Health and welfare publications

Many publications of interest have been received which can be mentioned only briefly. Among those designed for use in school are:

Healthful Living Through the School Day and in Home and Community, by Nina B. Lamkin. State Department of Public Health, Santa Fe, N. Mex., 1939. 71 pp.

Building Better Babies; a school manual. Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, Wisconsin State Board of Health, Madison, 1938. 51 pp.

Workers dealing with foreign-language groups may be interested in the following:

Home Classes for Foreign-Born Mothers, by Lester K. Ade. Bulletin 295, Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg, 1939. 77 pp.

A la Madre Preflada. New Mexico Department of Public Health, 1939. 20 pp. A bulletin on prenatal care written in Spanish.

Other bulletins having to do with infant and maternal health are:

Three bulletins issued in July 1939 by the Department of Public Welfare of Indiana on Standards for Maternity Homes and Maternity Hospitals; The General Hospital (23 pp.); The Home Hospital (17 pp.); and The Maternity Hospital (28 pp.).

Infant Mortality and Economic Status; Cleveland five-city area, by Howard Whipple Green. (Cleveland Health Council, 1001 Huron Road, Cleveland, 1939, processed; 123 pp. \$1.)

Other bulletins of interest to those concerned with child welfare are:

Report on Public Child Care Program of the District of Columbia, by the Child Welfare Review Advisory Committee. Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Washington, 1939. 34 pp. Based on recommendations made by Jacob Kepecs.

Report of the New Jersey State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population. Trenton, 1939. 128 pp.

Social Work in Greater Cleveland; how public and private agencies are serving human needs, by Lucia Johnson Bing. Welfare Federation of Cleveland, 1938. 248 pp.

BOOK NOTES

PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, by James A. Tobey, Dr. P. H. Commonwealth Fund, New York. 1939 edition. 414 pp. \$3.50.

Public Health Law has been revised and brought up to date in the second edition, published in 1939. This volume is unique in its field and is an excellent reference volume, valuable to lawyers as well as to persons engaged in public-health administration and to students. It contains a comprehensive discussion of public-health law and administration. The text reflects careful study of the subjects and is enriched with case references as well as references to other source material.

The book explains certain basic legal principles and covers the sources of public-health law and the organization of State and local health departments. It contains separate chapters on the powers and duties of health departments with respect to such subjects

as vital statistics, the control of communicable diseases, the control of tuberculosis, the control of venereal diseases, milk control, vaccination, and school hygiene.

The appendixes include the famous decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* (197 U. S. 11), which states the constitutional principles underlying public-health administration, and an explanatory section on the use of legal references and court decisions that should be of value to persons other than lawyers consulting the volume. A bibliography and a useful index are included.

NUTRITION AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH; proceedings of a National Conference on the Wider Aspects of Nutrition, April 27-29, 1939. British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, 1939. 150 pp. Price, 2s. 6d.

Acting on the conviction that national problems of malnutrition can be solved "if taken together and dealt

with by a long-term policy," the British Medical Association called a conference that was attended by representatives of 7 British Government Departments, 6 overseas Governments, 80 public and scientific organizations, and some 30 industrial and commercial organizations. Nutrition and public health were discussed by specialists in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry, and education. Agreeing on the desirability of increased consumption of protective foods, the discussants considered means of stimulating production of these foods through agricultural policies at home and in the overseas countries represented. They considered also means for stimulating consumption through family allowances and through education. The conference urged upon the Government "the formulation of a long-term food policy in which the requirements of health, agriculture, and industry shall be considered in mutual relation." It expressed its conviction "that measures to secure the more ready availability to all sections of the community of foodstuffs which are held to be desirable on nutritional grounds should be accompanied by an educational campaign to encourage their increased consumption."

THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, by A. M. Stimson, Medical Director, U. S. Public Health Service. Miscellaneous Publication No. 30, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, 1939. 111 pp.

This pamphlet covers a discussion, in alphabetical order, of 65 communicable diseases which may occur in the United States. The introduction states that "this book is intended as a source of dependable information for students in high schools and junior colleges." It will be useful, however, to everyone interested in public health and welfare.

For each disease are given data concerning cause, methods of spread, preventive measures, and treatment when this is specific or has public-health significance. An index and a glossary with definitions make the book easily usable, and 24 pages of pictures add greatly to its interest and educational value.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

MANAGEMENT OF THE SICK INFANT AND CHILD, by Langley Porter, M. D., and William E. Carter, M. D. Fifth revised edition. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1938. 874 pp. \$10.

In the preface to the fifth revised edition of this textbook the authors state that they have attempted to remedy some of the errors and omissions of former editions and to bring the material presented up to date. They have also added material about the care of older children not included in previous editions.

This book is written to help practitioners of medicine in their service to sick infants and children.

MATERNAL CARE AND SOME COMPLICATIONS. Edited by Fred L. Adair, M. D. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1939. 194 pp. \$1.50.

The two previous publications approved by the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, entitled "Maternal Care" and "Maternal Care Complications," are combined in this book with revisions and editing. The book was prepared by a group of specialists with Dr. Fred L. Adair as editor. This compact handbook for physicians practicing obstetrics is divided into six sections dealing with antepartum care, intrapartum care, postpartum care, toxemias of pregnancy, obstetric hemorrhages, and puerperal infection.

This book has been prepared in attractive form and in a size that makes it easy to carry about. The price has been kept low so that it should obtain wide circulation among individual physicians.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN SPEECH CORRECTION ASSOCIATION, vol. 9, 1939. Distributed by College Typing Co., 720 State St., Madison, Wis. Processed. 102 pp. \$1.75.

A report of the addresses and professional discussions at the meeting of the American Speech Correction Association held in Cleveland in December 1938 is contained in this volume. Several papers deal with the mental and emotional states of the stutterer and methods of treatment for stuttering, especially in school children and college students. Other topics considered include methods of treating speech difficulties in spastics and speech defects caused by deafness.

MEET YOUR CHILD, by Lowell C. Frost, M. D. Kellaway-Ide Co., Los Angeles. 159 pp. 1938. \$2.

The problems of boys and girls in high school and of their parents are stressed by Dr. Frost, who is head of the science department in the Beverly Hills High School and was formerly health counselor in the Los Angeles City high schools. Nutrition, health essentials, work and play, the gang, fraternities and sororities, curiosity, truth, privileges, giving and getting, school failures, college, sex, and social adjustment are among the questions considered from the point of view of present-day living conditions and habits.

"In order to meet our children on a common ground of understanding," states Dr. Frost, "it is not that they must grow older in their views but that we must become younger in ours. It is we who must become adaptable."

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

CHILD LABOR FACTS, 1939-40, by Gertrude Folks Zimand. Publication No. 379, National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York, October 1939. 39 pp. 25 cents.

The National Child Labor Committee in this publication gives a brief summary of the changes in the child-labor situation since 1930, followed by a discussion of child labor in industries not barred to children by Federal legislation. Rough estimates are given of the number of children probably at work in these occupations. There is a section on Federal regulation of child labor, including the Federal child-labor amendment and the Fair Labor Standards Act. A brief statement of existing standards of State child-labor legislation is included.

WHEN YOUTH LEAVE SCHOOL, by Ruth E. Eckert and Thomas O. Marshall. Regents' Inquiry, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 1938. 360 pp. \$3.

The two studies in this volume of the series published by the Regents' Inquiry Into the Character and Cost of Public Education in the State of New York are published together, because both have as their chief concern the problems of youth finishing or leaving school.

Part 1, Characteristics of Leaving Pupils, by Ruth Eckert, is a study of the abilities, interests, and future plans of all boys and girls leaving or graduating from the secondary schools of New York State, June 1936 to June 1937, a total of about 53,000. Part 2, Adjustments of Leaving Pupils, by Thomas O. Marshall, is an interview study with some 2,000 pupils leaving high school in 50 New York communities.

Miss Eckert points out that, since more than three in every five pupils entering high school in New York State withdraw before graduation and only about one in five goes on to college or other institution of higher learning, "whatever the secondary school fails to do in developing general competence for living will, for the most part, remain undone."

According to Miss Eckert's findings the boys and girls who drop out of school are especially handicapped as to general aptitudes, home background, and socially useful abilities. "Not only do they lack control of basic skills and of information needed for everyday living, but a great many of them are also judged incompetent to assume the duties of vocation or citizenship with any measure of intelligence or responsibility."

The city school appears to be "more successful than the country school in developing competence for living," and, judging by tested achievement, the boys profit more than the girls from the courses offered.

The pupils who graduate from high school, although comparatively well schooled for the most part in factual information, have not much more enlightened

social attitudes than nongraduates. Many had ill-chosen objectives both for immediate jobs and for their ultimate vocations. Once they were out of school, little difference was found in the first jobs of nongraduates and of graduates who did not continue their training in college or elsewhere.

Three defects in the present training offered by New York State secondary schools are emphasized in this study as "to some degree comprehending all the others and definitely in need of attention": (1) The scant emphasis on problems of immediate and practical living; (2) the lack of appreciation of the pupils' differing goals and of provision for meeting special and individual needs; (3) the lack of knowledge about students on the part of the school.

INDUSTRIAL HOME-WORK LEGISLATION AND ITS ADMINISTRATION. Division of Labor Standards (U. S. Department of Labor), Bulletin No. 26, Washington, 1939. 133 pp.

This publication, which was prepared by A. Louise Murphy, is planned for use by labor administrators dealing with industrial home work as well as by research workers, union groups, and others interested in the regulation of this industrial practice. A brief statement, dealing with the abuses of the system, with attempts at legal regulation, and with methods of administration, introduces a State-by-State topical summary of the main provisions of the industrial home-work laws of the 17 States which have such legislation.¹ This is followed by the texts of these laws and of orders issued under them and by suggested language for a State bill to regulate and tax industrial home work, which has been endorsed by the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials and by the National Conference on Labor Legislation.

In addition, the bulletin includes a summary of the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 that affect industrial home work and the text of the regulation issued under that act requiring employers of industrial home workers to keep records and prescribing the information which the record must contain with respect to their home workers.

The detailed analysis contained in this report, supplemented by the compilation of the laws and regulations dealing with industrial home work, gives information not available elsewhere in compact form. It is of particular value at the present time in view of the growing interest in the economic problems involved in home-work distribution. The bulletin is prepared in loose-leaf form to permit revision and expansion as home-work laws are revised or enacted and as administrative experience develops.

¹ Since the publication of this bulletin, West Virginia and Puerto Rico have passed industrial home-work laws, and California, which had been regulating home work through its minimum-wage law, has passed a law specifically applying to home work.

MIGRATORY COTTON PICKERS IN ARIZONA, by Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore. Works Progress Administration, Division of Research, Washington, 1939. 104 pp. Processed.

The pursuits and earnings of 518 migrant groups working in the Arizona cotton fields early in 1938 are traced for the entire year of 1937 in this report. Data are given on earnings; on living conditions, including housing, status in the community, social life in the cotton camps, food, and illness and mortality; and on family characteristics including State of origin, race, age, and size of families. One chapter deals with methods of labor recruiting in Arizona.

In regard to child labor the report states that all children above grade-school age worked with their parents to bolster the family income. "Children of school age were usually prevented from working during school time by the Arizona school-attendance law. Since enforcement is left to the school districts, however, the law is not always observed. Moreover, the law does not require attendance until the family has resided in the school district for 2 weeks, and exemptions to children whose earnings are needed by the family are freely given for limited periods. Accordingly, while child labor was kept more or less in check, it did exist to some extent in all districts and was widespread in the districts which ignore the school-attendance law."

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHAT ABOUT OUR TOWN? by Leonard W. Mayo. Reprinted from *Junior Red Cross Journal*, American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C. March 1939. 85 pp.

By means of fictional presentation the author has shown how a "youth day" inaugurated by high-school students was developed into a real community study resulting in the accomplishment of needed changes for civic betterment. "Boys' day" in Centerton was just a "show" until the senior class in high school tried reorganizing it. Moreover, activity did not stop at the close of youth day.

The young people drew up a set of recommendations approved by the officials and organized to carry on. Committees were formed, not all at one time but as the need developed, to study problems of relief, health, housing, recreation, and delinquency. The directors of

the appropriate departments in the city government served as advisers.

The story describes the organization and carrying out of a community study which obtained results. The techniques applied in learning facts about a community are brought out. The obstacles met by the young people of the story serve to show common weaknesses of community studies. The guidance and assistance given the students by school personnel, city officials, and staff of welfare organizations are described as illustrative of wise leadership. Lists of questions and suggested references for reading are given at the end of each chapter.

REHEARSAL FOR SAFETY; a book of safety plays, by Fanny Venable Cannon. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. 1939. 132 pp. \$1.

To provide an effective method of promoting safety habits the author has written eight plays for use in elementary and junior high schools. Some of the hazards the plays warn against are rusty nails, littered floors, fire, firearms, escaping gas, playing ball in the street, and getting lost.

TABLE GAMES; how to make and how to play them, by Ray J. Marran. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York. 1939. 122 pp. \$1.50.

About 60 table games, all of which can be made easily by boys and girls using simple tools and materials, are described in this book. It is the author's belief that making the game is just as much fun as playing it.

Games are grouped according to type, such as spinning top, checkerboard, and so forth. Drawn illustrations as well as printed instructions are given for each game.

HERE COMES THE MAIL, by Robert Disraeli. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1939. 117 pp. \$1.25.

Words plus 83 photographs tell the story of the workings of the United States Postal Service. The author, a New York photographer, spent a number of weeks in the New York City General Post Office and in Washington gathering material for the book. Although it contains information of use to persons of all ages—definitions of the various classes of mail matter, for instance—the book is written to appeal to children.

The Children's Bureau does not distribute the publications to which reference is made in *THE CHILD* except those issued by the Bureau itself. Please write to the publisher or agency mentioned for all others.

EVENTS OF CURRENT INTEREST

Dr. Carstens' Memory Honored

A special service in honor and memory of Christian Carl Carstens, whose death occurred in July 1939, was held at the Russell Sage Foundation, New York, on October 21. The speakers were Dr. A. T. Jamison, Howard W. Hopkirk, and Mrs. Edith M. H. Baylor, and Cheney C. Jones presided.

At their annual meeting the board of directors of the Child Welfare League of America adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, Dr. Christian Carl Carstens, for 18 years Director of the Child Welfare League of America, has been removed from this life;

And whereas the board has lost in his death not only a devoted leader who organized the league as an effective instrument in the field of child care but a friend who represented the highest ideals of personal and professional integrity;

Whereas the children of America, for whom Dr. Carstens toiled devotedly and whole-heartedly beyond the limits of his physical strength, have lost a champion and a friend;

And whereas the cause of social work has suffered in his passing the loss of a pioneer who blazed new trails and threw back the frontiers in uncharted areas;

Be it resolved, That the board of directors and members of the league pledge themselves to carry forward with renewed vigor the high purposes and objectives of the league to which Dr. Carstens devoted his life and to that end give it added strength and support in the tasks that lie ahead;

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be made a part of the records of the Child Wel-

fare League of America and that copies be sent to Dr. Carstens' family with our heartfelt expressions of sympathy and condolence.

National Resources Planning Board To Study Relief

The appointment of a technical committee to study long-range relief problems and policies was announced in November by the National Resources Planning Board. The committee will include qualified advisers from the Federal agencies concerned and specialists from outside the Government.

William B. Haber, executive director of the National Refugee Service, has been appointed chairman of the committee, which includes Dr. Will W. Alexander, United States Department of Agriculture, Katharine F. Lenroot, United States Department of Labor, Corrington Gill, Federal Works Agency, Mary Switzer, Federal Security Agency, C. M. Bookman, Cincinnati Community Chest, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Haas, dean of the School of Social Sciences, Catholic University of America, and Fred K. Hoehler, American Public Welfare Association. Dr. Evelyn M. Burns, professor of political science at Columbia University, will serve as director of research. Subcommittees will be formed to study certain aspects of the problem.

Official correspondence.

Child-Labor Day

The annual observance of Child-Labor Day, instituted 34 years ago by the National Child Labor Committee, will take place January 27-29, 1940. Suggested programs for church groups and schools, and suggested activities for women's clubs and civic organizations are given in a leaflet from the National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York. The committee will send a packet of materials including a child-labor-day talk, a play, and leaflets for free distribution on receipt of 25 cents in stamps or coin. A lantern-slide lecture, *Child Labor in America Today*, illustrated by 56 slides, can be obtained on loan from the National Child Labor Committee for \$2 and return postage.

National Social-Hygiene Day

National Social-Hygiene Day will be observed for the fourth time on February 1, 1940. Editors and health, civic, and welfare leaders desiring program and publicity aids are asked to write to Social Hygiene Day Service, American Social Hygiene Association, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York.

A new sound motion picture on syphilis entitled "With These Weapons" is to be released by the American Social Hygiene Association

in connection with the observance of Social-Hygiene Day.

Radio Programs of Interest

Series of radio programs announced for the current season include the following:

Democracy in Action, planned by the United States Office of Education. In this series a new plan of educational broadcasting will be tried, in which health, social security, foreign trade, labor welfare, and other problems of democratic government will be treated in units of five or six broadcasts each. Columbia Broadcasting System, every Sunday at 2 p. m., eastern standard time.

Tales From Far and Near, planned by the Association for Arts in Childhood. The second series, October 19, 1939, to April 25, 1940, will feature 22 favorite stories for children by famous authors, with authors and illustrators as guest speakers. Columbia Broadcasting System, American School of the Air, every Thursday, at 9:15 a. m., eastern standard time.

The Child Grows Up, planned by the United States Children's Bureau. A series of 15-minute discussions of child-welfare problems will be given by Katharine F. Lenroot, Chief, and occasional guest speakers. National Broadcasting System, blue network, every Saturday, at 10:45 a. m., eastern standard time.

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CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- Dec. 27-29 American Economic Association;
American Sociological Society;
and allied groups. Annual
meetings, Philadelphia.
- Dec. 27-30 American Statistical Association.
Annual meeting, Philadelphia.
Secretary: F. F. Stephan, 1626
K St. NW., Washington, D. C.
- Dec. 27-
Jan. 2 American Association for the Ad-
vancement of Science. Annual
meeting, Columbus, Ohio.
Secretary: F. R. Moulton,
Smithsonian Institution Build-
ing, Washington, D. C.
- Feb. 21-24 American Council of Guidance
and Personnel Associations;
National Vocational Guidance
Association. St. Louis, Mo.
- Feb. 22-24 American Orthopsychiatric As-
sociation. Seventeenth annual
meeting, Hotel Statler, Boston.
Secretary: Dr. Norvelle C.
LaMar, 149 East Seventy-third
St., New York.
- Feb. 24-29 American Association of School
Administrators. St. Louis, Mo.
- Apr. 29-
May 3 Association for Childhood Edu-
cation. Forty-seventh annual
convention, Milwaukee, Wis.
Headquarters: 1201 Sixteenth
St. NW., Washington, D. C.
- Apr. 24-27 American Association for Health,
Physical Education, and Recre-
ation (a department of the
National Education Associa-
tion) and the Midwest Physical
Education Association. Annual
convention, Hotel Stevens, Chi-
cago, Ill.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

FRANCES PERKINS, SECRETARY



CHILDREN'S BUREAU

KATHARINE F. LENROOT, CHIEF



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